

need a new policy to carry us forward to the year 2012.

So the point is, this is something we do every 5 years. This is a significant and consequential event when it comes to the Congress and the policies that it puts in place with regard to agriculture in this country that our farmers use as the framework or the guideline to make their decisions.

So when you do something every 5 or 6 years, the assumption normally is that you are going to want to do it right. I think we did do it right. I think we produced a bill out of the Ag Committee that, as I said, is very solid, very balanced. But I have a lot of colleagues who would like to have their voices heard in this process, offer amendments that they think would improve the bill.

So where are we today after 2 weeks, after having debated this bill on the Senate floor, or at least talked about it? We have not taken any action. I think it is a real disservice to the farmers of this country and to our rural economy, those rural communities that depend upon agriculture for their livelihood, that we have failed to act because the leadership, the Democratic leader, decided when he called up the bill to fill the amendment tree so that amendments could not be considered.

Two weeks on the bill, we have yet to vote on a single amendment on a piece of legislation that is 1,600 pages long and spends 280 billion tax dollars over the course of the next 5 years. Not one amendment has been voted on.

Now, just to put it in perspective and provide a little bit of a framework for previous farm bills, as I said, I was associated with the farm bill in 2002 as a Member of the House of Representatives. During debate of the 2002 farm bill, there were 246 amendments that were filed. Democrats and Republicans came together and voted on 49 of those amendments, including 25 rollcall votes in the Senate.

Before that, if you go back to the 1996 farm bill, there were 339 amendments offered to that farm bill. In 1996, the Republican leadership—at that time it was under the control of the Republicans—allowed 26 amendment votes, including 11 of those being rollcall votes.

During consideration of the 1990 farm bill, there were 113 votes, including 22 rollcall votes. And, finally, if you go all the way back to 1985—I was actually a staffer here at that time—there were 88 votes, 33 of which were rollcall votes. So 33 rollcall votes in 1985, 22 rollcall votes in 1990, out of a total of 130 votes taken.

As I said, in 1996 there were 26 amendment votes, including 11 rollcalls. And in the 2002 farm bill, there were 49 amendments offered and voted on, I should say, including 25 of those being decided by a rollcall vote.

My point, very simply, is, it is unprecedented what is happening with regard to the farm legislation, to a farm

bill that has these kind of consequences, this kind of cost, and this importance to the Nation's farm economy. I would hope that as this moves forward, and when the Senate—I use that term loosely because it is not moving forward; we are not getting anything done. It is a great frustration to many of us who worked hard to produce a bill, to get it to the floor of the Senate.

But I do not think you can take a piece of legislation of this consequence and try and ram it through without even allowing a vote on a single amendment. We have been here for 2 weeks. We have not voted on one single amendment.

I understand that the majority leader wants to limit the number of amendments. That is why he filled the tree. He essentially wants to decide which amendments are germane and which amendments are relevant. Normally, that is a decision that is made by the Parliamentarian. But what he has said is: I want to choose for my side, for the Democratic side, as well as for the Republican side, which amendments we consider, if any, and essentially approve those, which completely undermines, as I said, the basic premise of the Senate, which is when a bill is brought to the floor, those bills are open to amendment.

That has been the practice here for a good long time. It certainly has been the case on previous farm bills going back, as the numbers I just reported say, going back to 1985.

I say all of that to, as I said, take a little assessment, back off a little bit from all the rhetoric that we heard on the floor today. I would like to see us be able to work on it in a bipartisan way because, traditionally, historically, agriculture in the Senate and in the Congress generally has not been a partisan issue.

There are divisions that occur in agriculture but generally along regional lines. Those of us who represent the upper Midwest have slightly different priorities when it comes to a farm bill than those who represent the South or the West. You have special crop groups. You have your sort of base commodities—your corn, your wheat, soybeans, livestock, the things that we raise and grow in the upper Midwest. You have dairy and sugar.

We have dairy, sugar, lots of competing interests, all which play out in a debate over a farm bill. But what is regrettable about that in this particular case is that we are seeing what appears to be for the first time partisan gridlock over whether Members of the Senate, the 79 Members who are not members of the Ag Committee, will have an opportunity, as they traditionally do, to come forward to offer amendments they think will improve the bill. I express my frustration and the frustration of those farmers I represent. The organizations that have been in contact with my office are urging us to get on with this. I would love to be able to do that.

I have an amendment that has been filed that is very important to the bill. It improves the energy title of the bill. We came out with a bill that was a good product. I was pleased and happy with what we produced from the committee. But when it came to the floor, it became clear to me we could improve upon that by adding an amendment, a renewable fuels standard that would further strengthen the energy title of the bill. It became even more important when we started to look at what is going to happen next year in 2008, if we don't increase the cap on the renewable fuels standard, the 7.5 billion gallon cap in the renewable fuels standard today. We will reach that by the end of this year. So we have 2008, where we will be past the 7.5 billion gallons, and at that point there is very little incentive for oil companies to continue to blend ethanol. We need to get the statutory cap raised so we are at 8.5 billion gallons next year, and those who want to make investments in this industry will feel confident that there is going to be a new renewable fuels standard that increases the level of renewable fuels, something which I believe every Member of this body supports.

I believe when you are looking at \$100 oil and looking at our dependence upon foreign countries for energy supply, it makes enormous sense to do everything we can to come up with homegrown, domestic sources of energy and supplies. I would hope that amendment will be able to be voted on at some point. But at this point we are shut down. We are locked down. That is unfortunate. My hope would be we can move very quickly in the days we have ahead of us this year—I hope by tomorrow—to achieve some understanding or agreement about how we will proceed to come to a final vote. I hope the majority leader will decide in the end to move away from the practice he has adopted on this bill of filling the tree and preventing amendments from being offered so we can get to what the Senate does, and that is consider, deliberate, vote on amendments, take a piece of legislation, allow those 79 Members of the Senate who are not members of the Senate Ag Committee to be heard in the process and to have their opportunities to improve the bill to their liking and according to the priorities their constituents want to see addressed.

I hope as we come back tomorrow we will be able to make more headway on this issue.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 8:30 a.m. on Friday, November 16, 2007.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:58 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 16, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CRAIG W. DUEHRING, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE MICHAEL L. DOMINGUEZ.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NEEL T. KASHKARI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY. (NEW POSITION)

REFORM BOARD (AMTRAK)

THOMAS C. CARPER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE REFORM BOARD (AMTRAK) FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE SYLVIA DE LEON, TERM EXPIRED.

NANCY A. NAPLES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE REFORM BOARD (AMTRAK) FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ENRIQUE J. SOSA, RESIGNED.

DENVER STUTTLER, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE REFORM BOARD (AMTRAK) FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE DAVID MCQUEEN LANEY, TERM EXPIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ERIC M. THORSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE HAROLD DAMELIN, RESIGNED.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

ANA M. GUEVARA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE JENNIFER L. DORN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GOLI AMERI, OF OREGON, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS), VICE DINA HABIB POWELL.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TRACY RALPH JUSTESEN, OF UTAH, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE JOHN H. HAGER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATHAN J. HOCHMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE EILEEN J. O'CONNOR.

GRACE C. BECKER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE WAN J. KIM.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JAMES B. PEAKE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE JIM NICHOLSON, RESIGNED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT COMMISSIONED REGULAR OFFICERS IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211:

To be lieutenant commander

DAMON L. BENTLEY, 0000

To be lieutenant

SEAN C. BENNETT, 0000
ANGELIQUE FLOOD, 0000
TANYA C. SAUNDERS, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

WILLIAM E. ACKERMAN, 0000
MICHAEL L. AMARAL, 0000
SCOTT B. AVERY, 0000
JOSE L. BAEZ, 0000
KELLEY M. BARHAM, 0000
DACOSTA E. BARROW, 0000
ROBERT A. BOWDEN, 0000
PETER T. BULATAO, 0000
ROLANDO CASTRO, JR., 0000
ALLISON P. CLARK III, 0000
RUSSELL E. COLEMAN, 0000
PATRICIA DARNAUER, 0000
DEBRA L. DUNIVIN, 0000
RALPH A. FRANCO, JR., 0000
DANIEL W. GALL, 0000
KATHY E. GATES, 0000
RICARDO A. GLENN, 0000
ROBERT L. GOODMAN, 0000
WILLIAM B. GRIMES, 0000
STEVE HOROSKO III, 0000
DANIEL H. JIMENEZ, 0000
DANIEL J. JONES, 0000
MICHAEL L. KIEFER, 0000

GUY T. KIYOKAWA, 0000
RICHARD G. LOONEY, 0000
PETER T. MCHUGH, 0000
ROBERT D. MITCHELL, 0000
DAVID R. PETRAY, 0000
LESLIE J. PIERCE, 0000
JOEL T. POSTMA, 0000
FRANCISCO J. RENTAS, 0000
MICHAEL J. ROGERS, 0000
PATRICK G. SESTO, 0000
JAMES E. SHIELDS, 0000
STUART W. SMYTHE, JR., 0000
CARLHEINZ W. STOKES, 0000
JEFFREY P. STOLROW, 0000
GREGORY A. SWANSON, 0000
CHERYL TAYLORWHITEHEAD, 0000
MARK A. VAITKUS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

RACHEL A. ARMSTRONG, 0000
LORIE A. BROWN, 0000
THOMAS H. CHAPMAN, JR., 0000
ANNA I. CORULLI, 0000
LAWRENCE E. CROZIER, 0000
FLAVIA D. DIAZHAYS, 0000
STEVEN R. DRENNAN, 0000
KATHLEEN M. FORD, 0000
PETRA GOODMAN, 0000
VINETTE E. GORDON, 0000
KAREN T. GRACE, 0000
TONY B. HALSTEAD, 0000
ANGELENE HEMINGWAY, 0000
MARK E. HODGES, 0000
BARBARA R. HOLCOMB, 0000
SHERI A. HOWELL, 0000
CAPONERA P. KREKLAU, 0000
JUDITH A. LEE, 0000
GLORIA R. LONG, 0000
REYNOLD L. MOSIER, 0000
SUSAN M. RAYMOND, 0000
VERONICA A. THURMOND, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

VIVIAN T. HUTSON, 0000
PEGGY P. JONES, 0000
LEO H. MAHONY, JR., 0000
ROBERT L. MATEKEL, 0000
JOSEPH M. MOLLOY, 0000
LAURIE E. SWEET, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

GARY D. COLEMAN, 0000
BRADFORD W. HILDABRAND, 0000
JOLYNNE W. RAYMOND, 0000
DANA P. SCOTT, 0000
TIMOTHY H. STEVENSON, 0000
ERIK H. TORRING III, 0000
PAUL E. WHIPPO, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

LILLIAN L. LANDRIGAN, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

HORACE E. GILCHRIST, 0000

THE JUDICIARY

ROD J. ROSENSTEIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE FRANCIS D. MURNAGHAN, JR., DECEASED.

GENE E. K. PRATTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, VICE FRANKLIN S. VAN ANTWERPEN, RETIRED.

LINCOLN D. ALMOND, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE ERNEST C. TORRES, RETIRED.

MARK S. DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE T. S. ELLIS, III, RETIRED.

DAVID GREGORY KAYS, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE DEAN WHIPPLE, RETIRED.

DAVID J. NOVAK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE ROBERT E. PAYNE, RETIRED.

CAROLYN P. SHORT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT

OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE GENE E. K. PRATTER, UPON ELEVATION.

RICHARD T. MORRISON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE CAROLYN MILLER PARR, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KEVIN VINCENT RYAN.

DIANE J. HUMETWEA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE PAUL. K. CHARLTON, RESIGNED.

REBECCA A. GREGORY, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MATTHEW D. ORWIG, RESIGNED.

GREGORY A. BRROWER, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DANIEL G. BOGDEN, RESIGNED.

EDMUND A. BOOTH, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE LISA GODBEY WOOD, RESIGNED.

MICHAEL G. MCGINN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ALLEN GARBER, RETIRED.

REED VERNE HILLMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ANTHONY DICHO.

WILLIAM JOSEPH HAWE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ERIC EUGENE ROBERTSON, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ROGER A. BRADY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD Y. NEWTON III, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. WALTER D. GIVHAN, 0000

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

*TODD J. ZINSER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, November 15, 2007:

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL S. GALLAGHER AND ENDING WITH MARK K. FRYDRYCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2007.